

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1. (Original) A vehicular lock, comprising:
 - a frame;
 - a lock bolt movable from an extended and locked position to a retracted and unlocked position;
 - a follower movable with the lock bolt;
 - a pivot rotatably coupled to the frame;
 - an actuator drivably coupled to the pivot; and
 - a cam coupled to the pivot, driven by rotation of the pivot, and in contact with the follower, the cam rotatable to move the lock bolt from the extended and locked position to the retracted and unlocked position,

the cam having an asymmetric profile with respect to the pivot, the asymmetric profile defined at least in part by

 - a first sector corresponding to the locked position of the lock bolt,
 - a second sector corresponding to the unlocked position of the lock bolt,
 - a third sector having a changing radial dimension defining a ramped surface from an end of the first sector to a beginning of the second sector, and
 - a fourth sector extending between an end of the second sector to a beginning of the first sector,

wherein the third sector is defined by a greater circumferential portion of the cam than the fourth sector.
2. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a spring positioned to exert a bias force on the lock bolt toward the locked position.

3. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuator is a motor.
4. (Withdrawn) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cam is rotatable in opposite directions to move the lock bolt between the extended and locked position and the retracted and unlocked position.
5. (Currently Amended) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cam is driven in a single direction to move the lock bolt between the extended and locked position and the retracted ~~an~~ and unlocked position.
6. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a controller coupled to the actuator and controlling operation of the actuator via pulse width modulation.
7. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second sectors are each greater than about 30 degrees and less than about 150 degrees, the third sector is greater than about 30 degrees and less than about 270 degrees, and the fourth sector is between about 10 degrees and about 90 degrees.
8. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 7, wherein the first and second sectors are each between 60 and 120 degrees, and the third sector is between 60 and 180 degrees.
9. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the third sector is at least as large as each of the first and second sectors.
10. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one sensor positioned to detect a position of the lock bolt.
11. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a magnet coupled to one of the pivot, the cam, and the lock bolt, the sensor positioned to detect a magnet field of the magnet to determine the position of the lock bolt.

12. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a controller coupled to the actuator and the sensor, the controller responsive to at least one signal from the sensor to control operation of the actuator.
13. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 12, further comprising an H-bridge coupled to the controller to short circuit the actuator in order to brake rotation of the cam.
14. (Withdrawn) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 12, wherein the actuator is reversible by the controller to re-position the follower with respect to one of the first and third sectors.
15. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lock is a steering column lock.
16. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the third sector generates gradual radial movement of the follower with respect to the pivot.
17. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the follower is a roller coupled to the lock bolt.
18. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the follower is integral with and extends from the lock bolt.
19. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one sensor detects the position of the lock bolt by detecting a rotational position of at least one of the cam and the pivot.

20. (Currently Amended) A steering column lock, comprising:
a frame;
a lock bolt moveable from an extended and locked position to a retracted and unlocked position;

a follower movable with the lock bolt;
a pivot rotatably coupled to the frame;
an actuator drivably coupled to the pivot; and

a cam coupled to the pivot, driven by rotation of the pivot, and in contact with the follower, the cam rotatable to move the lock bolt from the extended and locked position to the retracted and unlocked position,

the cam having an asymmetric profile with respect to the pivot, the asymmetric profile defined at least in part by

a first sector corresponding to the locked position of the lock bolt,
a second sector corresponding to the unlocked position of the lock bolt, and
a third sector having a changing radial dimension defining a ramped surface from an end of the first sector to a beginning of the second sector,

wherein the third sector is defined by a greater circumferential portion of the cam than each of the first and second sectors;

the actuator driving the cam in a single direction to move the lock bolt between the extended and locked position and the retracted and unlocked position.

21. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 20, further comprising a fourth sector extending between an end of the second sector and a beginning of the first sector, the fourth sector having a changing radial dimension defining a ramped surface between the end of the second sector and the beginning of the first sector.

22. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 21, wherein the third sector is defined by a greater circumferential portion of the cam than the fourth sector.

23. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 20, further comprising a spring positioned to exert a bias force on the lock bolt toward the locked position.

24. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 20, wherein the actuator is a motor.

25. (Withdrawn) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 20, wherein the cam is rotatable in opposite directions to move the lock bolt between the extended and locked position and the retracted and unlocked position.

Claim 26 (Cancelled).

27. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 20, further comprising a controller coupled to the actuator and controlling operation of the actuator via pulse width modulation.

28. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 20, wherein the first and second sectors are each greater than about 30 degrees and less than about 150 degrees, and the third sector is greater than about 30 degrees and less than about 270 degrees.

29. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 28, wherein the first and second sectors are each between 60 and 120 degrees, and the third sector is between 60 and 180 degrees.

30. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 20, further comprising at least one sensor positioned to detect a position of the lock bolt.

31. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 30, further comprising a magnet coupled to one of the pivot, the cam, and the lock bolt, the sensor positioned to detect the magnet field of the magnet to determine the position of the lock bolt.

32. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 31, further comprising a controller coupled to the actuator and the sensor, the controller responsive to at least one signal from the sensor to control operation of the actuator.

33. (Withdrawn) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 32, wherein the actuator is reversible by the controller to re-position the follower with respect to the first and third sectors.

34. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 32, further comprising an H-bridge coupled to the controller to short circuit the actuator in order to brake rotation of the cam.

35. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 20, wherein the lock is a steering column lock.

36. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 20, wherein the third sector generates gradual radial movement of the follower with respect to the pivot.

37. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 20, wherein the follower is a roller coupled to the lock bolt.

38. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 20, wherein the follower is integral with and extends from the lock bolt.

39. (Original) The vehicular lock as claimed in claim 30, wherein the at least one sensor detects the position of the lock bolt by detecting a rotational position of at least one of the cam and the pivot.

Claims 40-56 (Cancelled).